

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 18, 2018

The Honorable Rick Snyder
Governor, State of Michigan
George Willard Romney Building
111 South Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Governor Snyder:

We are writing to strongly urge full and careful consideration of the effects of legislation denying Medicaid coverage to those who cannot meet a rigid work requirement before further efforts are made to enact such a bill. As a starting point, we urge any consideration of the measure be postponed until the State is able to conduct the analysis needed to provide a comprehensive assessment of how many Michiganders might lose health coverage under such a proposal.

The requirements in the bill reportedly soon to be considered in the Michigan Senate fail to take into account that most adult Michiganders receiving Medicaid already work, or have significant health conditions. A University of Michigan study of those receiving expanded Medicaid under the Healthy Michigan program found that more than 60 percent were either already working or unable to work. Among enrollees not currently working, 80 percent had a chronic physical or mental health condition.

This raises the concern that Medicaid work requirements may be more punitive than helpful, particularly in the case of the Michigan Senate bill which proposes some of the harshest requirements in the nation. As we currently understand it, this bill: (1) lacks any real work program with supports to help people find and maintain work; (2) cuts off Medicaid to a part-time working mother with a child over the age of five; (3) fails to provide adequate accommodation for older workers (applying the work requirement to those though the age of 64); (4) burdens recipients, including those already working and those with disabilities, with additional barriers and red tape; (5) denies Medicaid to working individuals for an entire year if they miss a deadline for filing a change in their income; (6) terminates coverage for certain college students who cannot work 29 hours a week in addition to going to class; (7) pushes more uncompensated care costs on to Michigan's hospitals; and (8) likely subjects the state to a challenge in the courts because it will impose a new eligibility condition for Medicaid not in federal statute.

Cutting off health coverage for struggling people will undercut the historic gains our state has made in covering the uninsured through the bipartisan Medicaid expansion, which the University

of Michigan found helped beneficiaries perform better in existing jobs and in job searches, leading to improved employment.

We urge you to reject any effort that would significantly threaten this tremendous progress. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Sander M. Levin
Member of Congress



Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress